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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM



NORTH KOREAN
CONSTRUCTION OF
RIVER TRANSPORT CRAFT
FOR NORTH VIETNAM

[Redacted]

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AUGUST 1968

COPY 118

2 PAGES

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[Redacted]

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NORTH KOREAN CONSTRUCTION OF RIVER TRANSPORT CRAFT FOR NORTH VIETNAM

A review of overhead photography of Nampo Shipyard Myonghyop, North Korea's largest shipyard, reveals this yard is producing river tugs identical to those seen in North Vietnam.

The Nampo Shipyard Myonghyop (Figure 1) is serially producing units identical to those photographed on deck of the Polish cargo ship KRASZEWSKI while in the Tonkin Gulf on [REDACTED] (Figure 2) and those observed in Haiphong on [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] No evidence of loading activity could be observed on aerial photography. However, collateral sources revealed that North Korea was providing logistics craft to North Vietnam and that the KRASZEWSKI was scheduled to embark several of these river tugs during a port call to Nampo. Six vessels were observed on the KRASZEWSKI when it was photographed on [REDACTED]

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The type of vessel being transferred is ideally suited for towing of barges along the canals and rivers of the North Vietnamese inland waterway system. The vessels are characterized by a long, low superstructure, necessary to provide clearance under bridges, and by a shallow draft hull. The North Korean built units are probably too small (length [REDACTED] to be of much use in handling the large ocean-going cargo vessels berthing in Haiphong.

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The construction program for these vessels appears to have been implemented in the last half of [REDACTED] based on [REDACTED] photography which revealed no evidence of river tug boat construction at Nampo. [REDACTED] photography reveals two and possibly four of these vessels at the Nampo shipyard. By [REDACTED] serial production of the vessels appeared to be at a maximum with two building ways in use for the river tug program and a total of ten vessels observable in the shipyard.

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Collateral reports of pending follow-up transfers of these vessels to the North Vietnamese, combined with the presence of at least one unit, presumably not complete, in the Nampo shipyard, indicate that the construction of this class of vessel can be expected to continue.

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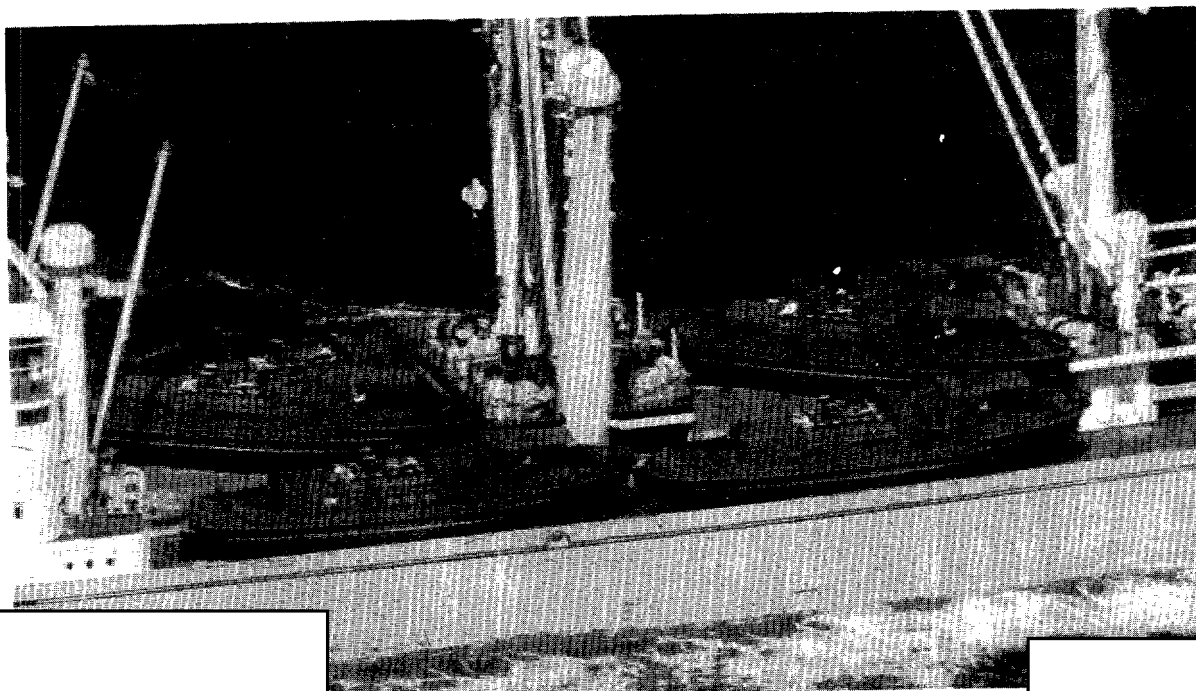
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FIGURE 2. NVN RIVER TUG BOATS.

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